Economic Update

June 2008

We're on the web

www.stjohns.ca

Business Briefs

St. John's tops the list of cities that are most improved in lifelong learning. The Canadian Council of Learning prepares the statistical index to measure learning in the classroom, home, workplace and community. According to this year's Composite Learning Index (CLI) released May 21, Canada's national average was 77 while St. John's scored 84. www.ccl.cca.ca

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An Amendment to the City of St. John's Municipal Plan and Development Regulations came into effect May 23, 2008. The map amendments allow the rezoning of lands on both sides of Torbay Road, north of the intersection of Torbay Road with Stavanger Drive to the City limits with the Town of Torbay. The new zoning designation will be Commercial Regional (CR) with Open Space Zoning to designate the waterways and wetlands in this area. Lands that are within the boundaries of the St. John's International Airport are not included in the amendments.

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A **St. John's Farmers Market** will be held most Saturdays from 9 am to 12 pm at the Lions Chalet near the Remax Centre on Mayor Avenue. The St. John's Farmers' Market aims to serve the people of St. John's by providing an economic outlet for local farmers, producers, artisans, bakers, food vendors and more! See http://stjohnsfarmersmarket.com for further details.

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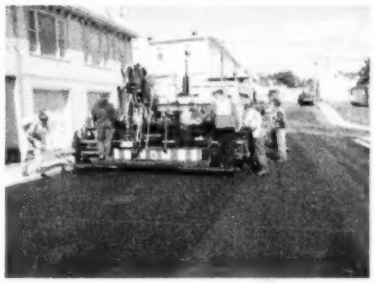
According to Statistics Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador's economy led the country in terms of growth in nominal gross domestic product in 2007, at 13.4 per cent. Saskatchewan followed at 11.4 per cent growth, ahead of Alberta's 8.3 per cent. Newfoundland and Labrador's growth in nominal GDP of 76 per cent between 2002 and 2007 also topped Alberta's gain of 73 per cent. Newfoundland and Labrador has registered the largest single-decade turnaround in GDP per capita in one decade in Canadian history.

Statistics Canada also indicated that Newfoundland and Labrador has reversed the long-term trend of a declining population. In the last two quarters of 2007, the number of people moving into Newfoundland and Labrador was the highest that it had been in 30 years. At the same time, out-migration slowed, resulting in the population increasing for the first time in 15 years.

City Building Permits (May 26, 2008)

Type	2007	2008
Commercial	$21,191,511	$16,266,785
Industrial	1,524,967	1,755,000
Institutional	8,037,622	20,315,583
Residential	29,289,980	30,550,076
Repairs	739,681	962,060
Total	**$60,783,761**	**$69,849,504**



Economic Indicators

- **The New Housing Price Index for St. John's Metro increased by 12.0% to 148.8 in March 2008**
- **The Consumer Price Index for St. John's Metro increased by 2.4% to 113.2 in April 2008**

Labour Force Characteristics, St. John's Metro, *(three-month moving average unadjusted)*

	Apr 08	Chg.
Labour Force	103,000	5.1%
Unemployment Rate	9.3%	2.0pt
Employment Rate	60.9%	1.1pt
Participation Rate	67.1%	2.6pt

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Business Approvals

Tea Room at the Garden, Mt Scio Rd.

G P Auto Sales, 326 Logy Bay Rd.

Pi Gourmet Pizza, 10 King's Rd.

Take-out restaurant, 188 Duckworth St.

Freshwater Deli, 2 Lemarchant Rd.

Amazon Tool Repair, 99 New Cove Rd.

Fish and vegetable store, 84 Gower St.

Hart, 430 Topsail Rd.

At Home Furnishing, 193 Kenmount Rd.

Coffee shop, 106 Water St.

Virtual Marine Technology, 20 Hallett Cres.

Aquaint Contracting Services, 215 Water St.

New Home Based Business

Caron Hawco Communications, 36 Victoria St.

Sewing business, 16 Donegal Pl.

Home office, 143 Main Rd.

City Initiatives

Visitor Information Centre

The City of St. John's Visitor Information Centre is now open seven days a week. The hours are from Monday to Friday 9 am to 4:30 pm and from 9 am to 5 pm Saturday and Sunday. Strategically located in the downtown at 348 Water Street, the Visitor Information Centre offers comprehensive services to tourists and visitors requiring information about the city. For further information please telephone (709) 576-8106 or visit: www.stjohns.ca/visitors/index/jsp The Airport Visitor Information Centre, in partnership with the provincial government and the St. John's International Airport Authority, continues to provide tourism services as well.

Ecclesiastical District

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recently designated the St. John's Ecclesiastical District in St. John's a national historic site. The Ecclesiastical District comprises most of the historic church buildings located in the downtown central core. A plaque unveiling ceremony will take place within the next year.

Upcoming Events

Newfoundland and Labrador Employer's Council - *Occupational Health & Safety Training*	Jun 12	www.nlec.nf.ca
Guest Advisor Program – *E-Business with Student Connections*	Jun 13	e-mail: info@cbsc.ic.gc.ca
NOIA Conference 2008	June 16–19	www.noianet.com
Personal Leadership Excellence Workshop	Jun 16 – Jun 18	www.cna.nl.ca/corporate/contacts.asp
Student Connections – *How to Draw Customers to your Website*	Jun 18	e-mail: gash@mun.ca
Atlantic Canada Petroleum Show	Jun 18–19	www.petroleumshow.com/acps/
St. John's Days Celebration	Jun 20 – Jun 23	www.stjohns.ca
OH&S Certification Training for Committees	Jun 23 – Jun 24	www.dmconsulting.ca/
Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons *Annual Meeting*	Jun 25 – Jun 28	www.plasticsurgery.ca
Student Connections – *Start Selling On-line*	Jun 25	e-mail: gash@mun.ca
ISO 9001:2000 Internal Auditor Workshop	Jun 25 – Jun 26	www.qualitymatters.net
Capital Coast Development Alliance – *Opportunities Identification*	Jun 26	e-mail: maureenf@ccda.nf.net
2008 World Junior Ball Hockey Championships	Jun 26 – Jun 29	www.cbha.com/
YMCA of Northeast Avalon– *Start Your Own Business Information Session*	Jul 8	e-mail: ksummers@ynortheastavalon.com

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